

Interviews
FLA + Conn

Youth Leadership and Alternative Education Initiatives



ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.
ANNUAL REPORT
1996-97



A United Way supported agency

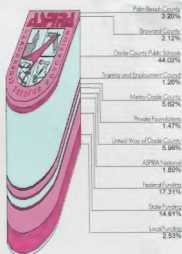


MISSION STATEMENT

"To empower the Puerto Rican and Latino community through education and the leadership development of its youth."

Be ASPRA Association, Inc.

REVENUE



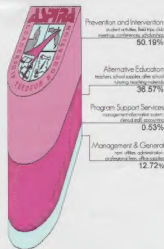
PROGRAM IMPACT

For program year 1996-97 a total of 1,599 educationally at risk students were recruited from 34 schools and communities in Dade Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

Of these students, 94% were encouraged to stay in school and not drop out. Of the 92 high school seniors recruited, 97% graduated. Of the 89 high school graduates, 96% enrolled into post-secondary institutions.

Accolade and Accolade South, the ASPRA Alternative Middle Schools, had a 94% daily attendance. Accolade students increased on average 1-2 grade levels in standardized reading and math tests.

EXPENSES



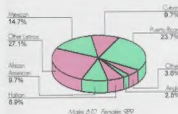
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 1997

ASSETS	
Current Assets	\$790,114
Property and Equipment	300,327
Total Assets	\$1,090,441
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	\$195,345
Net Assets - Unrestricted	642,143
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	251,953
Total Net Assets	\$895,096
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,090,441

CLIENT ETHNICITY

Total Caseload = 1394



INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING SESSIONS

Total Individual Sessions = 19,021



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended June 30, 1997

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	
Foundations and Corporations	\$258,472
Federal and State Grants	2,239,920
Interest Income	39,099
Total Revenues, Gains and other support	\$2,537,481
EXPENSES	
Prevention/Intervention Services	\$1,184,594
Alternative Education	863,576
Supporting Services	12,555
Management and General	300,447
Total Expenses	\$2,361,172

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$196,309
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$696,787
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$895,096

GROUP COUNSELING SESSIONS

Total Group Sessions = 2,257

Type of Group Session	Number of Sessions	Attendance
Club Meetings	925	17,893
Workshops	670	8,846
Small Group Counseling	318	2,211
Conferences	19	771
Educational Field Trips	121	2,568
Recreational Field Trips	134	2,644
TOTAL	2,257	34,693

A copy of the audited financial statements may be inspected or obtained at the office of Miguel Turbay, Certified Public Accountant, Miami, Florida.

A Message from Raul Martinez, M. Ed.

President and Chief Executive Officer, ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.

1996-97
Board of Directors

During the 1997 Program Year, ASPIRA implemented and operationalized various objectives of its business and strategic plans of geographic expansion. ASPIRA's plans are rooted in the Puerto Rican and Latino community, and driven by the mission to serve and address the "educational and developmental needs of all youth" throughout Florida's multi-cultural communities. ASPIRA is committed to pursue the highest quality programming for youth who are at risk of dropping out of school.

ASPIRA of Florida is a community based organization with program operations in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties (Homestead, Greater Miami & Miami Beach). ASPIRA is not an acronym but rather a Spanish word which means to aspire, to strive.

The Tri-County region provides ASPIRA with opportunities to network and to mobilize the community to achieve greater educational and leadership opportunities.

Greater Miami & The Beaches

This program division houses Acolade Middle, our first alternative school and Florida's flagship program of Youth Leadership Development and Outreach. Serving the immediate neighborhoods of Westwood and South Beach, ASPIRA has created a network of over 20 ASPIRA clubs throughout Dade County Public Schools and outreach centers. Local funding from Miami-Dade County and the cities of Miami & Miami Beach have maintained services to the most needy.

ASPIRA has continued to develop and promote an innovative concept in the delivery of alternative education, pre college and early awareness prevention/intervention services. The ASPIRA model is a Youth Sanctuary, an educational safe haven free from violence, drugs and gangs where youth can come off the streets and receive an education, counseling, mentorship and become involved in community service.

ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

ASPIRA South

This program division increased its alternative school enrollment to include a 9th grade; the US Department of Justice extended the Pathways to Success grant; community and parent support ranks among the most successful outreach efforts; staffing patterns continue to grow and service thousands of children and youth in the Homestead region. Strategies also include preparation of our youth for Workforce 2000 through job readiness, career exploration and internships.

ASPIRA Broward

This program division has gained the respect of Broward peers and key stakeholders. With funding from the Children's Service Administration and the local Juvenile Justice Council, ASPIRA Broward has made a significant impact and has developed one of ASPIRA's most active parent components. Other significant accomplishments have been the creation and formation of the ASPIRA Local Advisory Council and the partnership of Nova Southeastern University.

ASPIRA Palm Beach

This program division has produced the fastest start of any ASPIRA program. Palm Beach stakeholders, the School Board, City of West Palm Beach and the Palm Beach Hispanic leadership have encouraged and nurtured relationships to address the needs of Latino children and youth. The Palm Beach community has organized their local ASPIRA Advisory Council and added an advocacy committee known as the *Education Roundtable for Latino Youth*, supported by the MacArthur Foundation, local Hispanic leaders and private corporations.

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Norman Powell, Nova Southeastern University
Lee Ramos, Lemuel Ramos & Associates

Student Representatives
Francisco Tavera, ACF President, Miami Jackson Senior High School
Frankie López, ACF Vice President, Thomas Jefferson Middle School

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